MBTA Key Bus Route Improvement Program

Community Meeting
Route 71

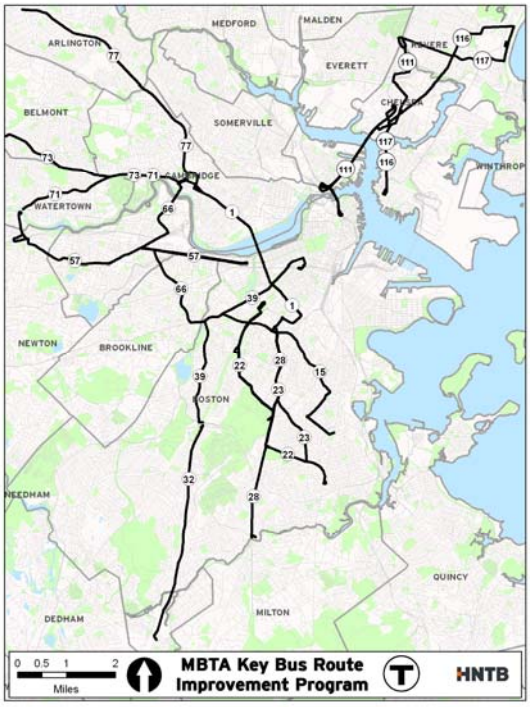
June 20, 2011
Coolidge School Apartments Auditorium
Watertown

Agenda

- Welcome and introductions
- Safety briefing/Accommodations
- Key Bus Route Program overview
- Existing conditions
- Recommendations
- Next Steps
- Discussion

Introduction

- Enhancements to 15 Key Bus Routes
- Funded by $10 million ARRA grant



Implementation Process

- Coordination with municipalities
- Development of initial concepts
- Community meetings
- Incorporation of public comments
- Refinement of concepts and final community buy-in
- Final design and construction

Key Bus Route Goals

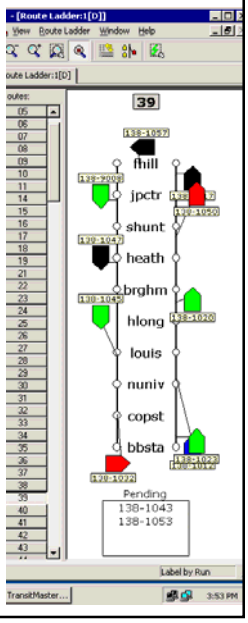
- **Reliability**
  - less bus bunching, improved on-time performance
- **Faster service**
  - Less stops, shorter trip times, fewer delays
- **Improved accessibility**
  - for seniors and persons with disabilities
- **Passenger amenities**
  - Shelters, benches, signage, trash receptacles

Reliability Issues

- Bus ‘bunching’
- Overcrowding
- On-time performance

Improving Reliability

- Tools to monitor and control buses



Bus Arrival Times

ANYWHERE
6 minutes
Where's the T?
Using real-time information instead of schedules, new apps tell you where your bus or train is and when it will actually arrive!
How to find an app:
1. Go to MBTA.com/apps
Check out our app gallery to find an app that works for you! Real-time applications are available for smartphones, web, text and your desktop.
2. Search "MBTA" in your smartphone's app store.
There are apps for the most popular platforms. Pick the one you like and download it to your phone!
mbta.com/apps
or search MBTA in your phone's app store

Traffic Signal Improvements

- Reduce overall congestion
- Requires coordination with roadway authority

Reliability and Faster Service: Stop Location Considerations

- Ridership – customer boardings and alightings
- Proximity to schools, medical centers etc
- Reducing traffic congestion
- Parking impacts
- Potential to add amenities – shelters, benches etc.
- Distance to adjacent stops

Today's Challenges

- Bus stops located too close together

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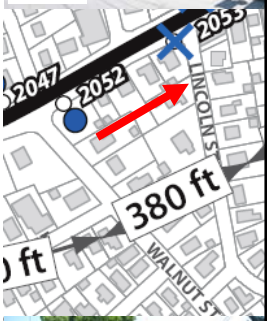
Optimized Bus Stop Spacing

- Ideal spacing is one stop every 750-1,320 ft (4-7/mi)
- Resulting walk time: 4-6 min
- Route 71 has an average of approximately 775 ft
- Some stops as close as 380 ft



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Bus Stop Consolidation

Benefits

- Shortens bus trip times
- Improves service reliability
- Minimizes “stop & go” experience
- Provides additional parking spaces
- Ability to provide better stop amenities

Today’s Challenges

- Poorly located boarding area with restricted access
- Clear path of travel to/from/through stop
- Snow clearance

Today's Challenges

- Bus stops often not long enough to allow accessible and safe boarding/alighting at each door

Improved Accessibility

Legal Mandate

- All bus doors must open at curb
- Deter cars from parking in stops

Providing accessible curb access requires longer bus stops

- Bus Stops must meet Current Guidelines for 40' buses

Farside – 60-65ft

Nearside – 90-100ft

Required Bus Stop Lengths

40’ bus

Midblock (or after left hand turn) – 100-110ft

Preferred Bus Stop Locations

- Appropriate distance between stops
- Sufficient length to allow buses to pull to the curb
- Clear boarding/alighting area
- Not blocking crosswalks or driveways
- Considerate of adjacent traffic and parking

Improved Amenities

Trash receptacles

Benches

New Bus Shelters

Better Pavement Markings

- Improves bus stop delineation
- Helps prevent illegal parking

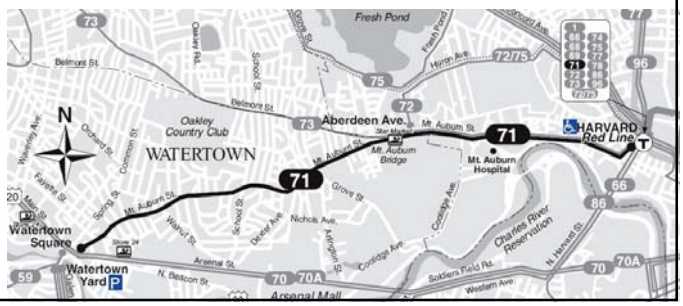
Improved Signage

- Missing/Damaged Signs
- Obstructed Signs
- Incorrect/Outdated Information

Route 71: Overview

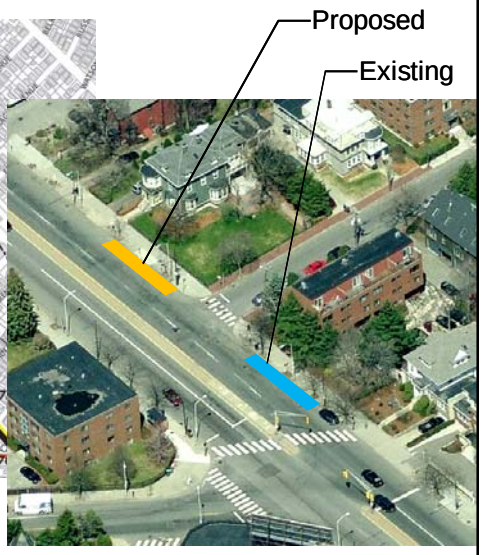
- Harvard Square to Watertown Sq.
- Connects to:
  - MBTA Red Line
  - MBTA Bus Routes 59, 70 & others
- MBTA's 14th busiest route
  - Over 5,378 avg. daily boardings
- Approximately 4.3 miles long
- Rt. 71 Stops: 27 IB (to Harvard) and 29 OB (to Watertown)
- Peak hour headways every 5-10 minutes
- On-time performance 74% Weekday

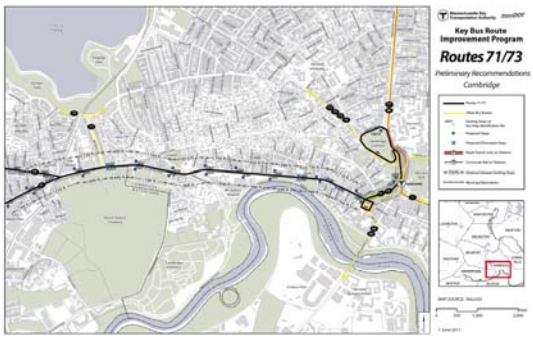
Source: MBTA's 2008 Biennial Service Plan



Preliminary Recommendations Route 71/73

Explanation of Maps

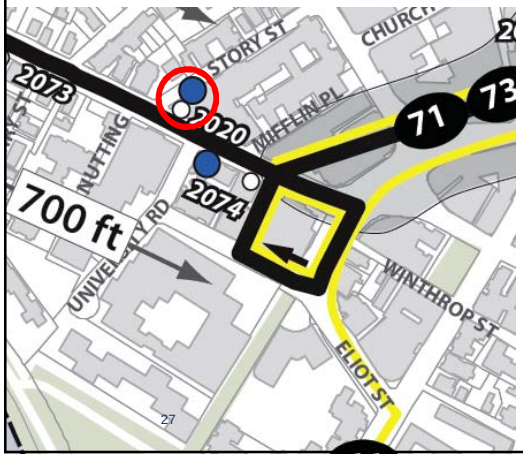




Preliminary Recommendations Route 71/73 in Cambridge

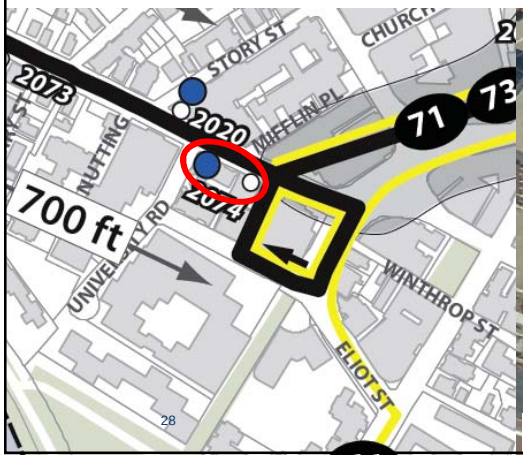
Mt. Auburn @ Story St OB

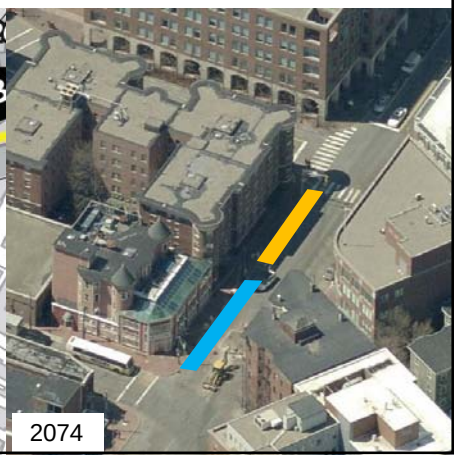
Lengthen stop to provide adequate bus access.
-1 parking space.



Mt. Auburn @ Bennett Alley IB

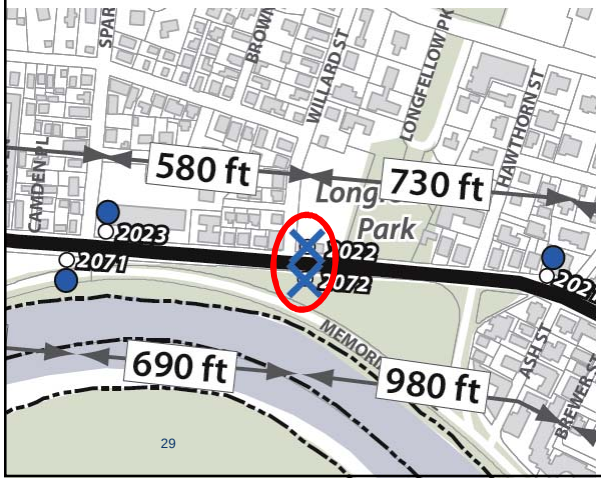
Relocate stop to farside of University Rd. Swap parking, +1 new space. Add trash receptacle.





Mt. Auburn @ Willard St

Remove IB and OB stops to improve spacing and due to low ridership. Reinstate parking.



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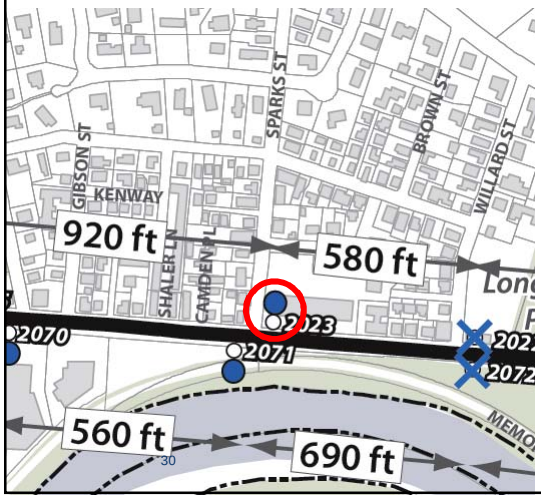
Mt. Auburn @ Sparks St OB

Lengthen stop to provide adequate bus access. -1 parking space.



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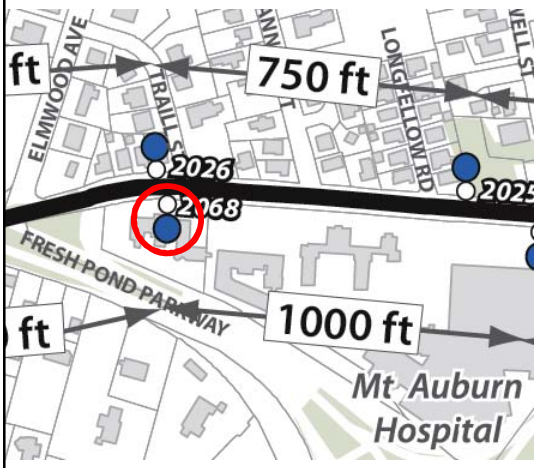
Mt. Auburn @ opp Trail St IB

Investigate narrow shelter; otherwise add bench.



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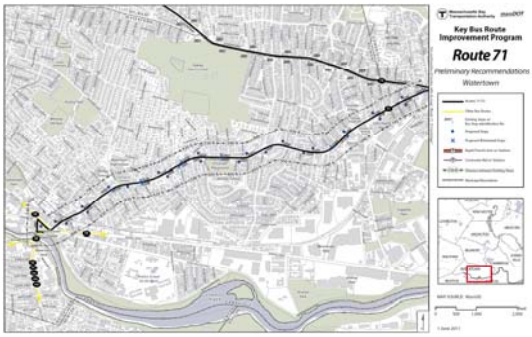
Mt. Auburn @ Aberdeen Ave

Remove IB and OB stops to improve spacing.

32



Preliminary Recommendations Route 71 in Watertown

Mt. Auburn @ #818 OB

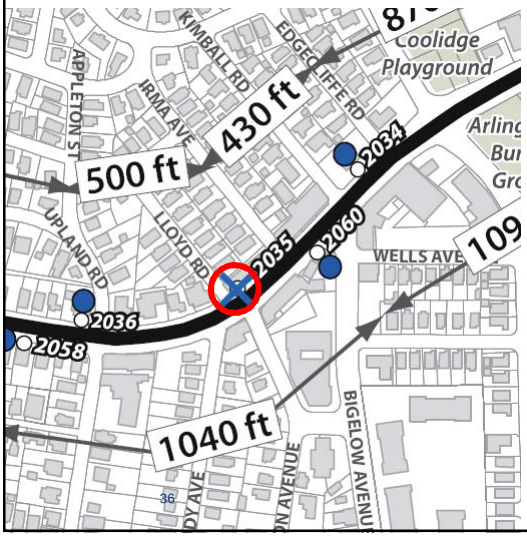
Remove stop to improve spacing. No companion stop.

Mt. Auburn @ Kimball Rd OB

Investigate shelter with abutter permission; otherwise, add bench.

Mt. Auburn @ Lloyd Rd OB

Remove stop to improve spacing. Reinstate parking.



Mt. Auburn @ Oakley Rd

Remove IB and OB stops to improve spacing and due to low ridership. Maintain no parking.

2039

2055

6/15/2011

Mt. Auburn @ Bailey/Lincoln

Remove IB and OB stops to improve spacing and due to low ridership. Maintain no parking.

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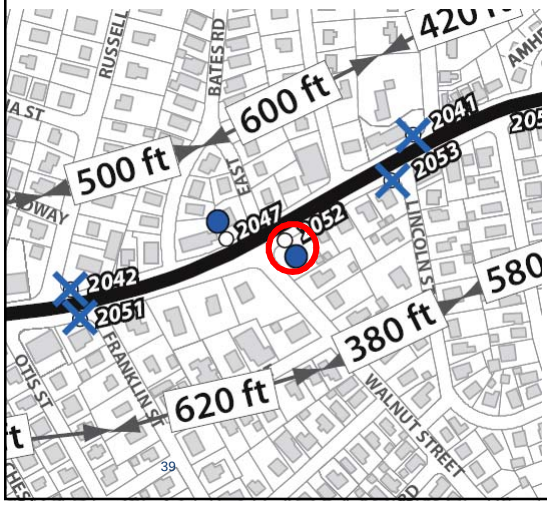
2053

6/15/2011

Mt. Auburn @ Walnut St IB

Construct concrete landing area. Add bench. Investigate signal improvements.



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Mt. Auburn @ Russell OB

Remove stop to improve spacing. Maintain no parking.

2042

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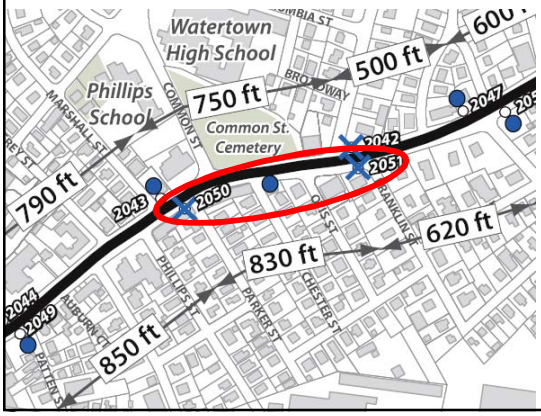
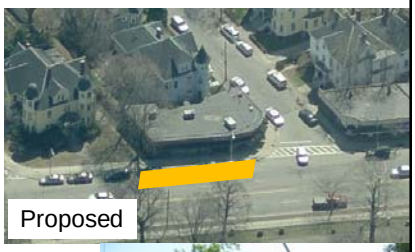
Mt. Auburn @ Parker/Franklin
Consolidate IB stops to improve spacing. Add shelter. Reinstate parking.





Summary of Preliminary Recommendations – Route 71

- Add shelters, benches, trash receptacles
- Lengthen stops for accessibility
- Relocate stops
- Consolidate stops
  - Current Stop Plan 27 IB/29 OB
  - Proposed Stop Plan 22 IB/22 OB
- Investigate traffic signal improvements
- Sidewalk improvements

Public Outreach

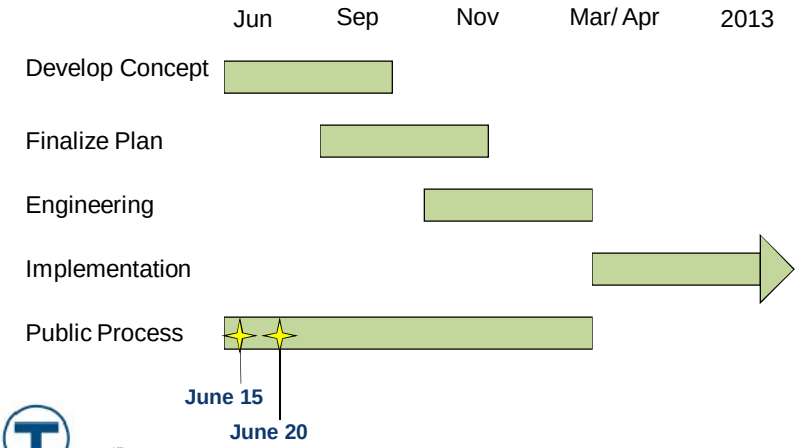
- Community meetings for each route
- Flyers, e-mail blasts, mailings, newspaper ads
- Outreach to public and elected officials
- Key Bus Route project website

Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority
Schedules & Maps
Fares & Passes
Rider Tools
Riding the T
About the MBTA
Customer Support
Safety
Transit Police
About the MBTA
Leadership
T Projects
History
News & Events
Career Opportunities
ScoreCard
Public Meetings
Document Library
Art Collection
Financials
Environment
Key Bus Route Improvement Program
Program Overview
The MBTA has designated 15 of our busiest bus routes as "Key Bus Routes". Each Key Bus Route operates at a high frequency, 7 days a week, to meet passenger demand in high-density corridors. Service operates every 10 minutes or better during weekday peak periods, every 15 minutes or better during weekday midday, and every 20 minutes or better during off-peak periods.
The goal of the Key Bus Route Improvement Program is to improve the overall quality of service for customers on these Key Bus Routes by reducing trip times; enhancing customer comfort, convenience and safety; and making the bus service more reliable and cost-effective. The 15 Key Bus Routes to be improved as part of this Program are: Routes 1, 15, 22, 23, 28, 32, 39, 57, 66, 71, 73, 77, 111, 116, and 117.
Related Links
T-Projects and Accessibility
T-Projects and the Environment
T-Projects and Transit Oriented Development
MBTA Key Bus Route Improvement Program
NNTB

Comments and Next Steps

- Project Updates at www.mbta.com/keybusroutes
- Mail to Operations and Service Development, 45 High St, Boston, MA 02110
- Email to keybusroutes@mbta.com
- Submit comments by Thursday, July 8, 2011
- Next community meetings:
  - Routes 57: June 22nd at Jackson-Mann Community Center, Brighton
  - Route 66: June 23th at Tobin Comm. Center, Mission Hill
- Discussion

Project Schedule Bus Route 71/73



Discussion

These are

PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATIONS

We want to hear from you!